



## **The Companion Chronicles: The Second Doctor Volume 1**

### **1.4 The Edge**

**by Rob Nisbet**

Speaking Characters:

**The Doctor**

**Zoe Heriot**

**Jamie McCrimmon**

**Provost Curtis**

**Sebastian**

**Waiter**

Doctor Who – The Edge – Episode 1

MUSIC: (DOCTOR WHO OPENING TITLES)

SCENE 1 - TARDIS CONSOLE ROOM

(FX: THE HUM OF THE TARDIS CONSOLE ROOM)

(THE DOCTOR AND ZOE ARE DICUSSING TARDIS COMPONENTS. JAMIE DOESN`T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY ARE SAYING, BUT DOSEN`T WANT TO APPEAR STUPID)

JAMIE:

...Oh aye, a dimensional stabiliser... right.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The Doctor and Zoe were blathering-on about another of the TARDIS gismos. I didnae understand a half of what they said, but I wasnae going to tell them that.

The Doctor, of course, wasnae fooled for a moment.

DOCTOR:

Now Zoe, I don`t think Jamie`s that interested in all these gadgets.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

But Zoe wasnae that kind. Och, she`s a nice enough lassie, but she does like to show off. "It`s simple, Jamie," she lectured, "once

you`ve grasped the basics."

She held out the dimensional what-not. It looked like the wee glass thing the Doctor called an egg-timer. Except it was covered with coils of wire, and a red light flashed somewhere inside.

"This is one of the most important TARDIS components," she explained. "It stabilises the dimension which contains the TARDIS interior."

I took the thing and turned it over in my hand.

JAMIE:

You mean... *This* allows the inside to be bigger than the outside? Then should it no` be plugged into the console somewhere?

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

"Oh, that`s a spare," said Zoe, then her eyes opened wide in sudden panic and she turned to the Doctor. "That *is* a spare, isn`t it Doctor?"

DOCTOR: (AMUSED)

Yes, yes, Zoe; we`re perfectly safe. Why, I`d hate to think what would happen if we removed the *functioning* stabiliser.

(FX: CHIME FROM TARDIS CONSOLE)

Now then, it looks like we`re landing somewhere.

(FX: TARDIS MATERIALISATION)

JAMIE: (NARRATING - OVER MATERIALISATION SOUNDS)

The Doctor scampered around the console, checking instruments.

(FX: TARDIS MATERIALISATION COMPLETE)

DOCTOR: (TALKING TO HIMSELF)

Interesting. The atmosphere outside is breathable, *but only in the local vicinity*. No radiation. Reasonable gravity...

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

He tapped at a meter, watching its needle.

DOCTOR: (THOUGHTFULLY)

Again, only in the local vicinity. How curious; gravity beyond this immediate area is - well *different*.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The sleeves of the Doctor`s tail coat were a little too long but he managed to rub his fingertips together, grinning like a bairn with a new toy. He waved a baggy sleeve towards the door.

DOCTOR:

Wherever we are, it should be interesting. Shall we?

**SCENE 2 - CORRIDOR**

JAMIE: (DISAPPOINTED)

Och, it`s a corridor, Doctor. Again!

DOCTOR: (MUTTERING THOUGHTFULLY)

Yes Jamie. The TARDIS does seem to have a pre-disposition... I wonder if there`s a 'corridor` setting switched on somewhere in the sub-routines.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Zoe joined us, shutting the TARDIS door behind her.

(FX: TARDIS DOOR CLOSING)

"An *odd* sort of corridor though," she said glancing around. "The walls are concertinaed, like they`re flexible. What do you suppose are behind all these double doors?"

Well, I could think of a quicker way to find out than listening to Zoe`s supposing.

(FX: DOORS BEING OPENED)

DOCTOR:

Ah, yes Jamie, ever the pragmatist.

**SCENE 3 - LECTURE THEATRE**

(FX: THEY WALK INTO A LARGE LECTURE THEATRE)

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

A huge room spread out and downwards in front of us. Rows of empty seats with wee desks attached, sloping down to a huge screen where diagrams and a messy scrawl of numbers were displayed. Zoe was impressed: "It`s a lecture theatre, Doctor," she said.

DOCTOR:

Yes Zoe, I believe you`re right.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Zoe tried not to look smug - but failed. She was usually right - about everything. She pointed to the screen. "Oh Doctor, they`re studying the life-cycle of stars. Look - old stars expand and explode creating a nebula..."

DOCTOR:...Then gravity pulls the nebula material together to form *new* stars and planets...

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

"And the cycle begins again," Zoe finished.

Thankfully, at that point, a door opened on the lower level. A group of about ten people filed in. They were all wearing cream-coloured

overalls and they were following a young man, who waved an arm up at the rows of seats.

SEBASTIAN: (TALKING LIKE AN ENTHUSIASTIC TOUR GUIDE TO THE PEOPLE BEHIND HIM) This, ladies and gentlemen, is the largest lecture hall on The Edge. It was on this very spot that our Provost, Provost Curtis, outlined the seven principle stages of intellect.

(FX: MUTTERED APPRECIATION FROM THE CROWD)

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The young man looked up to where we were watching.

SEBASTIAN: (CALLING)

Just arrived?

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

He led the group up to our level, puffing slightly as he climbed the slope to shake our hands.

SEBASTIAN: (SLIGHTLY OUT OF BREATH)

I`m Sebastian, tour guide for new arrivals. Phew, I must have a word with maintenance, either they`ve got the gravity set too high or I`m getting old!

You`ve missed the main academic areas, I`m afraid. But you`re welcome to join us - we`re about to go *outside*.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The Doctor introduced us and clapped his hands together.

DOCTOR:

Outside. Thank you - er - Sebastian. Yes, that would be most interesting.

SEBASTIAN:

(LOUDER TO THE CROWD) This way ladies and gentlemen; follow me.



**SCENE 4 - CORRIDOR**

(FX: THE CROWD WALKING DOWN THE CORRIDOR)

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

We all filed out back into the corridor, turning away from the TARDIS. Zoe was right about the corridor walls, they seemed to bend so that they connected with the doors to the big classrooms.

Then, I *shivered*. I didnae understand at the time, but I knew that something wasnae right.

JAMIE:

Is this wise, Doctor? We don`'t know anything about this place and... well, I just *feel* that there`s something *wrong* here. Have you noticed that there`s nae windows?

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

There was nothing I could put my finger on. Just an uneasy feeling. The Doctor, however, had that twinkle in his eyes that meant he was going to explore, nae matter what.

DOCTOR: (ENTHUSIASTICALLY) Don`'t you understand, Jamie? We`re going *outside*. That means beyond the area of breathable atmosphere, beyond the stable gravity - there could be *anything* out there!

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The Doctor`s face folded into a grin and he shuffled with a few apologies through to the front of the tour group, Zoe and me following behind.

DOCTOR: (CATCHING UP WITH SEBASTIAN)

Ah, Sebastian... Might I ask - er - this place, *The Edge* did you say? What exactly goes on here?

SEBASTIAN:

What goes on at The Edge, Doctor? *Why everything!*

(PROUDLY) This facility is at the cutting edge of research into anything you might care to examine. It is the galaxy`s scientific hub of experimentation, theoretical breakthroughs and invention.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I saw the Doctor and Zoe were impressed. This was just the sort of place that would interest them.

(BEAT)

(DEPRESSED) I could see myself stuck here for weeks.

The Doctor`s eyes had sought out a spacious open area ahead of us. There was a huge metal door with the number three printed across it.

DOCTOR:

Do you have laboratories, Sebastian? You mentioned experimentation.

SEBASTIAN:

All part of the tour, Doctor. You`ll see the exterior of the labs from our viewing platform outside.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Sebastian led us into cubicles to change into cream-coloured overalls so that we matched everyone else. Then he bustled around as each of the tour group were given a set of what he called 'gravity boots`, and a plastic dome to fit over our heads.

SEBASTIAN: (LOUDLY TO THE TOUR GROUP)

As you should know, there is very little gravity outside, and therefore no atmosphere. The boots, like the interior of this facility, induce a gravity in the wearer so that you`ll be able to walk normally. The breathing dome fits into the collar of your overalls and contains a sound-activated communication relay. We`ll be able to hear each other as well as being linked back here to the main base.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The Doctor stepped from his cubicle looking completely different out of his usual tail coat. The pale overall still managed to look baggy on him though.

I`d got into the overalls fine, but the boots were more difficult. I had my dirk tucked into my knitted socks, hidden under the overall`s leg. The boots fitted over the top but they had that many fastenings that I couldnae see what went where.

Of course the boots were nae problem to Zoe:

"Here, Jamie, let me do that for you," she said. "You don`t want to go floating away do you?"

There was nae chance of me floating; they boots made my whole body feel heavy. We clomped over to where everyone was gathered by the huge metal door.

SEBASTIAN:

Airlock 3.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Sebastian instructed us to put on the breathing domes and checked that they were all secure.

(FX: AIRLOCK INNER DOOR OPENS)

SEBASTIAN: (VOICE DISTORTED TO SUGGEST THE CONFINED BREATHING DOME AND THE COMMUNICATION RELAY)

Follow me, ladies and gentlemen.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

We crowded into the airlock. The door behind us closed...

(FX: AIRLOCK INNER DOOR CLOSES)

And the door in front of us opened.

(FX: AIRLOCK OUTER DOOR OPENS WITH A BRIEF HISS OF ESCAPING AIR.

GASPS OF WONDER FROM THE TOUR GROUP AS THEY WALK OUTSIDE)

**SCENE 5 - SURFACE OF THE EDGE ASTEROID, OPEN TO SPACE**

JAMIE: (NARRATING) (IMPRESSED BY THE SIGHT)

We shuffled forward, everyone gazing up at the sky. It was the same blue as a summer`s day in the highlands, but dark too. Then my eyes began to pick out some details. We were looking up into the blackness of space, but the whole sky blazed with blue and purple clouds. It looked like an *explosion*, frozen and draped across the stars. Even Zoe was impressed, "It`s beautiful," she said.

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

Yes, Zoe - Oh my word! I don`t think I`ve ever seen anything quite so glorious.

SEBASTIAN:

(DISTORTED) The Indigo Nebula, ladies and gentlemen. And we`re about to see it in all its glory. Could everybody please keep to the plastic floor panels. That`s right Sir, just follow the walkway.

(CLOSER) Ah, Doctor, I`m confused. Surely you saw the nebula from the shuttle when you arrived...

DOCTOR:

(DISTORTED) Ah, *yes*, Sebastian... Well *no* actually.

JAMIE: (DISTORTED)

Er - We were sleeping!

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED - SURPRISED)

Were we? Oh - er, yes we were very tired, *weren't we Zoe?* (CHANGING THE SUBJECT) Oh, look, Sebastian are those asteroids?

SEBASTIAN:

(DISTORTED) That`s right, Doctor. Just like this one.

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED AND WITH SUDDEN REALISATION)

The Edge is an asteroid! Floating through the Indigo Nebula!

SEBASTIAN: (DISTORTED AND WITH SUSPICION)

Obviously. I suppose you all slept through the shuttle`s information briefing too.

JAMIE:

(DISORTED) Yon asteroids... They look - broken.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Tumbling slowly through the glowing nebula were huge moon-like boulders. They glinted in the blue light like giant diamonds.

The asteroids were rounded, but almost all of them had what looked like slices missing. They looked like gigantic crystal-blue oranges with segments removed. As my eyes grew accustomed to the strange light

I could see loose segments floating past, catching the light like the curve of a moon.

Sebastian herded us on to join the main group, taking us to the edge of the plastic walkway. There was a rail to the left and the glassy surface of the asteroid beyond.

SEBASTIAN: (DISTORTED)

All the asteroids are crystalline, formed from the accreted material of the nebula. They may look solid, but in parts they`re as fragile as a snowflake. That`s why we have to walk on this protective covering.

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

Is that why there are so many broken fragments?

SEBASTIAN: (DISTORTED)

The crystal formation has strata within it which divides each asteroid into eight segments. These strata are extremely brittle, any collision or stress within an asteroid can cause segments to break free.

In the case of *this* asteroid, two segments are missing.

(FX: GASPS AND EXCLAMATIONS (DISTORTED) OF WONDER FROM THE GROUP)

That`s why we call it *The Edge*.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

(IN AWE OF THE VIEW) Sebastian led us to a rail at the end of the



walkway; beyond it there was *nothing*. The asteroid simply stopped at an enormous cliff edge.

Ahead of us there was nae horizon, just space and the bright purple-blue of the nebula.

The Doctor grabbed the hand rail and stared straight ahead.

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

Oh my word! My giddy aunt! Look at it Zoe, Jamie. We`re tumbling through the remnants of an exploded star. Can`t you just feel the Universe revolving around us?

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I held tight onto the railing too. But I was feeling more like the Doctor`s aunt. All that nothingness, ahead and above, made me feel dizzy.

I looked down the sheer glassy edge of the cliff. Not so long ago I had flown in the Brigadier`s heli-chopper, but even that was nothing like this. The cliff was so *high*, it just kept going, down and down to where a few buildings could just be seen, hazy through smoky blue trails from the nebula.

I drew back, but the Doctor and Zoe were leaning over and pointing.

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

Ah, Sebastian, this must be the viewing platform you mentioned earlier.

SEBASTIAN: (DISTORTED)

That`s right Doctor. I told you you`d see the exterior of the laboratories didn`t I? Those buildings down there, at the core of The Edge, are where all the innovative research takes place. All very secret; access strictly controlled.

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

Cutting edge experimentation... I - er - don`t suppose there`s any chance of a tour of those laboratories? Eh Sebastian?

(FX: FADE)

**SCENE 6 - REFECTORY**

(FX: FADE IN VOICES OF OTHER PATRONS OF THE CAFÉ, THE OCCASIONAL CLINK OF CUTLERY AND GLASSES)

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Back in The Edge buildings, the Doctor, Zoe and me found an area where we could get something to eat. We still wore our cream overalls which seemed to be what everyone wore here.

We had just ordered some sandwiches and three fruit juices when Sebastian the tour guide came over to our table. He said that he had asked Provost Curtis about the Doctor`s request to visit the laboratories.

The Doctor an` Zoe were suddenly interested, but Sabastian placed three wee flat screens on the table and said there was a test.

Zoe`s eyes lit up - this was another chance for her to show how clever she was - and she picked up one o` the screens.

Sebastian strode away saying that the results would flash-up in his office when we were done.

No sooner had he turned around than Zoe was tapping at the screen.

"They`re puzzles, Doctor." She stroked her finger across the screen.

"The first is about temperature curves. And look, there`s one about

relative dimensions.”

The Doctor reached for his screen; I leant back in my chair waiting for the sandwiches.

The Doctor gave me an odd sort of smile. (SYMPATHETICALY) “Not your cup of tea, eh Jamie?”

Our drinks hadnae arrived – then I realised what he meant.

“Och, you and Zoe go if you like. I`ll stay here; it`ll be more interesting than stuffy old laboratories.”

The Doctor leant in close, “Thank you Jamie. I wouldn`t want Zoe to go on her own.”

It was then that the waiter arrived. He placed our plates and glasses on the table, then just stood there looking at the screens. “Excuse me,” he said, “I see you`re taking the test for the core facility. I – er- might be able to help you with that.”

Zoe of course was outraged: “You can`t give us the answers – that would be cheating!”

I could imagine Zoe`s horror if my test score was as good as hers. But the waiter simply placed a wee glass tube, like a salt shaker, on the table. Inside, at the bottom, were a few tiny crystals, like blue

sugar. The Doctor's eyes narrowed. "What's this then?"

"Acumen," said the waiter. "It's a medication. It promotes the formation of synaptic links in the brain."

The Doctor frowned at the tube. "Acumen... Yes I've heard of it. Used very successfully in stroke cases and to slow down the progression of dementia. Take it away."

The waiter didn't move. "When taken by an otherwise healthy person," he said, "it has the ability to boost the intelligence. Useful if, for example, you were taking an important test. For a reasonable fee..."

The Doctor stood. His voice was quiet, but it soon built up. "I've asked you to take it away. Now! Or do you want me to draw attention to what you're offering us?"

The waiter snatched up the glass tube and scuttled back to the kitchen like a surprised rabbit. The Doctor sat down, fussily straightening his baggy overalls. He took a breath. "Sorry about that, but, you know, it's really quite wrong to offer prescription treatments like that. Acumen *does* enhance the intellect, and that makes it one of the most valuable commodities in the Universe. I wonder how much that waiter's 'reasonable fee' would have been. Some pharmaceutical company somewhere is making a fortune; no one really knows where it comes from, but I doubt that waiter came across it legally." He managed a smile at Zoe. "And as you say, it *would* be cheating."

Zoe lay her wee screen on the table. "I`ve finished anyway," she said.  
"Perhaps you should hurry-up, Doctor; the time taken may be a factor."

The Doctor fumbled for the screen. "Oh - oh now I`m all flustered!  
Question one: On the graph below, trace the cooling curve of  
pressurised nitrogen..."

(FX: FADE)

**SCENE 7 - REFECTORY**

(FX: FADE IN VOICES OF OTHER PATRONS OF THE CAFÉ, THE OCCASIONAL CLINK OF CUTLERY AND GLASSES. SOFT BACKGROUND MUSIC IS BEING PLAYED)

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The Doctor and Zoe had only been gone a few hours, and I was already bored. This Edge place might be their idea of a good time but, to be honest, it was all a bit too clever for me.

Of course they had passed the test easily. Sebastian had come running over straight away to take them down in a lift to the laboratory area.

I told them I wouldnae mind, staying here by myself. There were evening talks in the halls but I couldnae even understand the signs on the doors, let alone what was being said inside.

I didnae have a TARDIS key, so I sat in the café area again. I could see the waiter from earlier, he was skulking in a corner. I wondered if he might be avoiding me after the Doctor had sent him away. He took the tube of blue-sugar from his pocket, frowning at the few crystals inside.

He looked around as if to make sure nobody was watching, then he turned and hurried down another corridor.

(BEAT)

Well, I hadnae anything else to do...

I got up and followed him.

(FX: CAFÉ NOISES AND BACKGROUND MUSIC FADE OUT)



**SCENE 8 - CORRIDOR**

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I hurried after the waiter, down another of those strange zig-zag-walled flexible corridors. Nae windows again.

It sounds crazy but the lack o` windows suddenly bothered me, I felt closed in and, though I kept one eye on the waiter, I found myself looking around for a way out.

It was the same feeling I`d had when we first landed... That something wasnae right. I couldnae explain it then, but now I realised what it was. I felt *trapped*. Trapped somehow in this corridor, or this building, or on this asteroid.

Perhaps I was being *led into a trap* - was that it? I tried not to think about it as, ahead of me, the waiter disappeared through an open doorway which he didnae bother to close behind him. I peered round into the room. I could see a large blank screen on the opposite wall, there was a desk and a rack o` those plastic breathing domes.

Their voices were muffled, but I could hear the waiter talking to someone, demanding more Acumen.

The answer came from a voice I recognised - *the guide Sebastian*. He seemed irritated, saying that he`d have to speak with Provost Curtis. I recognised that name. Wasn`t the Provost in charge of this place?

Suddenly the screen on the wall lit up as the waiter paced back and forth across the doorway. A man`s face appeared on the screen. He looked old, about forty, thin faced and serious - *and his skin and hair were a shade of pale blue*. I could hear *his* voice clearly, even out in the corridor.

CURTIS:

Sebastian, how convenient; I was just about to contact you. What is it you want? Ah, I see you are with our friend the waiter - a request for Acumen I assume. *The answer is no.*

It`s no good protesting. You`ve been selling Acumen too close to home. Do I *really* have to explain? I don`t want any authorities investigating this close to the source. They`ll be down here crashing through the mine in no time. You have endangered my operation.

Sebastian, kill him will you?

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The waiter gasped and backed away. I couldnae believe it, suddenly Sebastian had a gun in his hand!

(FX: THE SOUND OF AN ENERGY WEAPON BLAST)

**SCENE 9: - SEBASTIAN`S OFFICE**

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I darted through the open door without thinking - but there wasnae anything I could do. The waiter lay twisted on the floor.

Sebastian still held the gun, he was looking away from me, towards the screen, so, quick as I could, I crouched down behind the rack of breathing domes. Provost Curtis was still talking.

CURTIS: (CONTINUING AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED)

Now Sebastian, the reason I was going to call you...

Those two visitors you sent down, the Doctor and the girl, they have the highest test scores I`ve seen. Very impressive. And their`s appears to be a natural intelligence.

They both have a knowledge of stacked dimensions which will be particularly useful once I`ve persuaded them to join my permanent staff. That means, of course, that their dim-witted friend, the boy, is now a loose end. Kill him too, would you.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

That was too much! I tried to reach for Sebastian`s gun thinking I`d take him by surprise.

(FX: CLATTER AS STACK OF BREATHING DOMES IS KNOCKED OVER)

(PANIC) But I knocked over the stack of breathing domes! Provost Curtis was staring right at me out of the screen. Even the 'whites` of his eyes were blue.

I twisted round and out of the door as Sebastian swung the gun around

(FX: THE SOUND OF AN ENERGY WEAPON BLAST)

blasting a chunk out of the door frame.

**SCENE 10 - CORRIDOR**

(FX: JAMIE RUNNING DOWN CORRIDOR)

JAMIE: (NARRATING) (IN PANIC AND GETTING OUT OF BREATH)

I ran around a curve of the corridor. Where could I go? I couldnae get in the TARDIS and Sebastian would soon catch me in one of those lecture halls. I could think of only one place.

(BEAT)

I ran into another corridor which led to Airlock 3, then snatched up a breathing dome clamping it over my head.

(FX: JAMIE`S LABOURED BREATHING INSIDE THE DOME)

How had everything gone wrong so quickly? I reached for some gravity boots and I pressed the control for the inner airlock door to open.

(FX: AIRLOCK INNER DOOR OPENS)

I was in luck; I couldnae see Sebastian as the door closed behind me.

(FX: AIRLOCK INNER DOOR CLOSES)

I fumbled with the boots, they were too small but I forced them onto my feet. I didnae have time for all the fangled fastenings but the

boots were working, I could feel that heavy sensation, deep inside, that the boots gave me. I slammed my hand against the outer door control.

(FX: AIRLOCK OUTER DOOR OPENS WITH A BRIEF HISS OF ESCAPING AIR)

**SCENE 11 - EXTERIOR WALKWAY**

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

And I was outside.

(FX: JAMIE`S BREATHING IS STILL AUDIBLE, BUT LESS LABOURED)

The evening sky was the same as during the day: I felt so small as the broken asteroids rolled through the glowing clouds of purple and blue exploding through space.

I ran out into the open; that`s when I realised I had nowhere to go. I had to stay on the plastic walkway, 'cos the asteroid surface was too weak to walk on.

My only hope was that Sebastian hadnae seen me leave the building. And, wasnae there a lift somewhere that led down to the Doctor and Zoe?

(BEAT)

It looked like I was the only one outside. I ran to the deserted observation platform that looked down over the edge to the wee laboratory buildings. And that`s when the feeling of being trapped hit me again.

It was *much* stronger this time. I felt like walls were pressing against me and I was desperate to get out.

It was *so wrong*. All I could see was the vast openness of the Indigo Nebula above, ahead and below me, yet I still felt closed-in.

I risked a look down over the edge - and I knew that the trapped feeling was coming from somewhere down there. I could see a shaft off to the right. The lift! I leant over the railing, trying to trace it as it disappeared down into the misty blue distance.

(FX: JAMIE CRIES OUT)

(IN PANIC) I was lifted - up and over the railing!

I grabbed for the rail, but missed. I was falling! Then I jolted to a halt as my fingers caught on the platform edge.

Sebastian was looking down at me through the plastic of a breathing dome as I hung there by the fingertips of my left hand. My legs circled wildly but there was nothing beneath me.

JAMIE: (VOICE DISTORTED IN DOME. STRAINED BY EFFORT OF HOLDING ON)  
Help me! Sebastian, please - I cannae hold on much more.

SEBASTIAN: (DISTORTED. SADISTICALLY)

Provost Curtis wants you dead. And you`ve made it so easy.

(FX: JAMIE CRIES OUT IN PAIN)



SEBASTIAN: (DISTORTED)

Oops! I seem to have stepped on your fingers - and it`s such a long way down.

JAMIE: (DISTORTED)

Help me - *please!*

(FX: JAMIE GASPS THEN CRIES OUT AS HE FALLS, HIS CRY DIMINISHING WITH DISTANCE)

MUSIC: (DOCTOR WHO CLOSING TITLES)

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MUSIC: (DOCTOR WHO OPENING TITLES)

REPRISE OF SCENE 11

*JAMIE: (VOICE DISTORTED IN DOME. STRAINED BY EFFORT OF HOLDING ON)*

*Help me! Sebastian, please – I cannae hold on much more.*

*SEBASTIAN: (DISTORTED. SADISTICALLY)*

*Provost Curtis wants you dead. And you`ve made it so easy.*

*(FX: JAMIE CRIES OUT IN PAIN)*

*SEBASTIAN: (DISTORTED)*

*Oops! I seem to have stepped on your fingers – and it`s such a long way down.*

*JAMIE: (DISTORTED)*

*Help me – please!*

*(FX: JAMIE GASPS THEN CRIES OUT AS HE FALLS, HIS CRY DIMINISHING WITH DISTANCE)*

**SCENE 12 - FALLING DOWN THE EDGE**

(FX: JAMIE`S PANIC-BREATHING WITHIN DOME. THIS CONTINUES OVER THIS SECTION)

JAMIE: (NARRATING) (IN BREATHLESS PANIC)

Falling!

Dropping like a stone.

Twisting and tumbling I stupidly thrashed at the air but there was nothing to hold onto.

The glassy cliff face whizzed past on one side.

The distant glowing clouds of the nebula on the other.

I gritted my teeth, screwed up my eyes, and for an instant seemed to be floating!

My eyes sprang open; I was still falling - fast.

But there was nae sensation of movement.

Nae *air* rushing past me.

*Nae atmosphere*, I remembered.

Nae atmosphere. *Nae atmosphere* - the thought hammered at me, wouldnae leave my head.

The 'ground` and the buildings far below were clearer now. I knew I would slam into them - splatting across those flat roofs and snaking corridors.

(BUILDING-UP TO REALISATION) Nae atmosphere. Because - *because* there was nae gravity!

My gravity came from the special boots!

I spun towards the cliff, it was speeding past even faster now.

I kicked out. My boots were tight but they werenae fastened.

(VOICE STRAINED WITH EFFORT) I prised the toe of one boot against the heel of the other.

And the boot fell free! Plummeting down ahead of me.

But I was still falling.

I shook my other boot till it felt loose, then kicked again. It slipped free and went speeding down after its partner.

I was still moving - *but not nearly so fast.*

The boots didnae pull me. I felt again like I was floating, free in space, but I`d been set tumbling towards the laboratory buildings, so I kept spinning over and over in that direction. It didnae feel like 'down` anymore.

Suddenly those flat roofs were really close, speeding towards me and...

(FX: THUD AS JAMIE HITS THE GROUND, HE CRIES OUT IN PAIN)

(WINDED) I`d hit one of those plastic walkways. But I was alive!

(FX: JAMIE`S BREATHING STARTS TO CALM DOWN)

(IN PAIN) Ow! I managed to stand; practically weightless in the weak gravity. Owww! I leant against a wall, testing the movement in my legs. My left side would be a mass of welts, but nothing broken.

The buildings here were the same as at the top o` the cliff. Separate rooms, bound together by a network o` flexible corridors. The Doctor had said this was a standard design to link-up modules of a base like this. I looked up at the impossible distance I had fallen. I had been lucky - *very* lucky.

Then on the floor, I saw the ruin of one o` my boots, the walkway splintered around it like a moon crater. That smashed boot couldha been me! I moved around it, my rough knitted socks slow and hardly

connecting with the ground.

I half walked, half floated around the outside of the buildings. From what Curtis had said, this was where the blue-sugar stuff was mined. I expected to see tunnels into the cliff side, tracks and trucks. I remember Polly and Ben explaining trains and tracks to me, such a long time ago. But there was nothing like that here.

But there *was* something I recognised. An airlock door, with a big number 8 written on it. I drifted over to it, hoping the door worked the same way as the one at the top o` the cliff.

(FX: AIRLOCK OUTER DOOR OPENS WITH A HISS OF ESCAPING AIR)

It did!

SCENE 13 - CORRIDOR

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Ow! Having the false gravity back brought a mass of aches down my bruised left side, but at last I could take off the breathing dome.

There were more twisting corridors with nae windows. I added my dome to the rack at the airlock door.

Now what?

The Doctor and Zoe were here somewhere. Being forced to work for Provost Curtis. And *I* had to rescue them.

(BEAT)

There was a movement as a man crossed one o` the corridors from right to left. I recognised his blue face - Provost Curtis! I couldnae believe my luck. I ran after him, quiet in my stockinged feet. Then turned left, keeping a safe distance behind him.

There were more double doors here too. Some were open, I could see into the laboratories that Zoe and the Doctor had been so interested in. They were full of complicated equipment. And a few other people. These others also had a pale blueness to their faces and hair. In one room a woman looked up as I passed, straight into my eyes. I`d been spotted!

(A LITTLE CONFUSED) But she showed nae sign of surprise, just turned back to her work.

(FX: JAMIE`S RELIEVED BREATH)

I crept on along the side o` the corridor as, ahead o` me, Provost Curtis turned into a set of doors, leaving them wide open behind him.



**SCENE 14 - LABORATORY**

(FX: THERE IS THE HUM/CRACKLE OF AN ELECTRICAL BARRIER)

CURTIS:

Now Doctor, and Zoe, have you had *enough* time to consider my proposal?

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The Doctor! And Zoe! I`d found them!

I peered around the door, hoping not to be seen. In a far corner, a pale blue man stood at a bank of dials watching the centre of the room where the Doctor and Zoe were trapped in what looked like a man-sized box made o` lightning.

Provost Curtis had his back to me but the Doctor could see me and raised his eyebrows in silent surprise. I think the pale blue man saw me too, but, like the woman earlier, he was too busy with his equipment to react.

DOCTOR:

Ah - Provost Curtis. I - er - that is *we*, Zoe and I, have decided that we do *not* want to work for you. So, if you would kindly release us...

CURTIS:

I think you have an exaggerated concept of choice, Doctor. Ideally you would *choose* to work here, but I`m equally happy to *force* your

cooperation.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Zoe had seen me too, "You monster, let us go!" she shouted to draw Curtis`s attention. I pulled my dirk from the top o` my sock as I crept forward. I hadnae a plan - except to threaten Curtis; get him to release my friends.

I was just a step away from his back when he swept round!

(FX: SOUNDS OF A PUNCH AND KICK, THE KNIFE CLATTERS ACROSS THE FLOOR)

A hand thudded against my wrist sending my knife skittering across the floor and his foot kicked out sending me tumbling.

Curtis barely looked at me.

CURTIS:

Oh dear. Did you really think I didn`t know you were following me?

JAMIE:

Let them go!

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Curtis just turned away from me as if I wasnae there.

CURTIS:

Now then Doctor and Zoe. My proposition: you both performed phenomenally well at my entrance exam. You even show an awareness of 'stacked dimensions` which is intriguing. There is a chamber, quite close to here, which I`m certain will be of interest to you - *if you were to stay.*

(PERSUASIVELY) Imagine unlimited funding to enable your research into - well anything you wanted. And the Acumen too, to ensure you excel.

JAMIE:

Don`t listen to him, Doctor. You`ll end up like these blue people - mindless, just working.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I pointed at the man at the terminal. He seemed to be controlling the lightning cage. Curtis turned back to me as if surprised to find I was still there.

CURTIS:

Mindless?! You could not be more wrong. Everyone here has an exceptional intellect - and a passion for their studies. If my staff choose to ignore you it is simply because they have more pressing concerns.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Curtis noticed my socks as I got painfully to my feet and a flicker of amusement twisted his blue lips.

CURTIS: (REALISING HOW JAMIE HAD ESCAPED)

I wondered how you had escaped Sebastian`s attentions. Were the boot fastenings too tricky for you? Ironic that, in this case, your *lack* of intelligence should have proved to be an advantage.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I made to pick up my dirk, but Curtis nodded a signal to the man in the corner.

(FX: ADDITIONAL CRACKLING FROM A SECOND ELECTRICAL BARRIER)

A wall of lightning rose up in front of me, moving closer. I was forced backwards, out into the corridor.

CURTIS: (VOICE DISTORTED AS IF THROUGH A PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM)

Security. We have an intruder in sector 8. I require him to be expelled - *without* a breathing dome.

**SCENE 15. CORRIDOR**

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

It looked like the lightning wall only worked inside the laboratory. It shimmered across the doorway keeping me outside, in the corridor.

(FX: HURRYING FOOTSTEPS APPROCHING)

I could already hear footsteps getting nearer from my left. I turned right and ran.

(FX: JAMIE`S STOCKINGED FOOTSTEPS. OTHER FOOTSTEPS BECOME DISTANT)

I pushed open the next set of double doors on my right, closing them quietly behind me.

(FX: RUNNING FOOTSTEPS APPROACH, PASS AND FADE INTO THE DISTANCE)

(BEAT)

I was safe - for the moment. *And* I was in the room next-door to where the Doctor and Zoe were being held. Perhaps I could get through to them from in here.

But it wasnae a normal room: I was in a wee entrance hall with more doors at the other end.

(CONFUSED BY THE FEELING OF BEING TRAPPED) And suddenly I felt trapped again. Once more it didnae make sense. I *knew* the doors behind me were unlocked but I felt like I couldnae get out. I still didnae ken what this feeling was, but it was even *stronger* this time; I felt as if the walls were pressing in on me. I needed to get out. I fairly ran to the other doors pulling them open!

**SCENE 16 - MINING CHAMBER**

(FX: A VAST OPEN CAVERN. INTERNAL, BUT SO VAST IT SOUNDS LIKE AN EXTERIOR SPACE. LOUD ECHOING INDUSTRIAL MINING SOUNDS OF EXCAVATING, TRANSPORTING, CRUSHING)

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I could hardly believe what I was seeing.

(BEAT)

*This* was obviously where the mining took place. Where Provost Curtis excavated that blue-sugar from the asteroid.

But the most amazing thing was the *impossible* size of this chamber. It was *gigantic*, stretching on and on. There was nae way all this space could be just-down-the-corridor from where the Doctor and Zoe were being held. This was like the inside o` the TARDIS: I remembered Curtis saying something about 'stacked dimensions`.

I was on a raised walkway which led around the outside of the chamber and into the distance. I had seen *huge* terminal buildings at Gatwick Airport, but those were tiny compared with this. Here and there steps led down from the walkway to the central area which was busy with machinery. It took me a full minute to realise what was down there...

The Edge, the asteroid, had two of its segments missing. And here they

were! *Not* floating free through the Indigo Nebula, they lay here like beached whales, their shapes hardly recognisable there`d been that much crystal hacked out of them.

(FX: ADDITIONAL HUM OF AN ELECTRIC TRUCK)

An electric truck passed underneath the walkway, piled high with chunks of crystal. There was nae driver; everything here seemed automatic. I followed the truck as best I could. This section of walkway ended in a doorway to some sort of control room and the truck trundled underneath. As it disappeared it caught a shaft of light; the crystal glinted with a tinge of purple-blue.

(WITH SHOCKED REALIZATION) Then I realised... Acumen wasnae just dug out from the asteroid, the whole of The Edge was *made* of Acumen! The most valuable substance in the galaxy!

And what about all the other asteroids? I thought. In fact, what about the *whole* nebula. Hadn`t the Doctor said the asteroids were collected clumps of nebula stuff? I couldnae take in the scale of it all.

CURTIS:

Impressive, isn`t it?

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

(SURPRISED) I shot round to find Provost Curtis standing behind me!



CURTIS: (CONVERSATIONALLY)

Your friends are being surprisingly obstinate. Still, I`ve broken others; I shall find *their* breaking points eventually.

JAMIE: (THREATENING)

You leave them alone, or you`ll have me to deal with!

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I tried to sound threatening as I staggered back in surprise. I had nowhere to go but into the control room.

(FX: JAMIE OPENS THE DOOR)

**SCENE 17 - MINING CONTROL ROOM**

(FX: INSIDE THE CONTROL ROOM THE INDUSTRIAL MINING SOUNDS ARE A LITTLE QUIETER)

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Curtis followed me in and closed the door, standing in front of it.

(FX: DOOR CLOSING, MINING SOUNDS BECOME MUCH QUIETER)

CURTIS:

Jamie isn't it?

(LOFTILY) I had dismissed you, Jamie, as a mere helper or companion to your much brighter friends. *But I confess that you intrigue me.*

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I backed away from him, between banks o` monitors and equipment, all flashing with wee lights.

CURTIS:

You have a primitive loyalty to your friends which, despite my better judgement, I find *quite fascinating.*

JAMIE:

What have you done to them?

CURTIS:

A containment field for the moment. But I`ll soon switch to something more *persuasive*.

Does that shock you? I do hope so. Don`t disappoint me, Jamie; I`m intrigued to know what you will try next.

JAMIE:

I thought you *knew* everything.

CURTIS: (AN AMUSED CHUCKLE DROPPING BACK TO SERIOUSNESS)

Not where you`re concerned. You, Jamie, are new to me. An innovation, and I *do* like learning from something *new*.

You came in here, thinking you might find a way through to rescue your friends. It`s all completely hopeless - *and yet you keep trying*.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

He gestured to a window that looked out onto the massive mining operation.

CURTIS:

Take a look. Even *you* must realise that there is no way through to your friends from here. This is no ordinary room is it?

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I *knew* this whole mine was like the TARDIS. But Curtis thought I was more stupid than that.

CURTIS:

Can`'t you see how *impossibly* large this chamber is? A 'stacked dimension` - or are you just too ignorant to register the anomaly?

JAMIE: (ACCUSINGLY)

You`re mining Acumen. This is where that blue-sugar comes from.

(FX: AN EXPLOSION TAKES PLACE OUT IN THE MINING CHAMBER)

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Curtis glanced out of the window as an explosion lit up the inside of one of The Edge segments. The light blazed for an instant through the blue crystal, lighting up the whole cavern.

Curtis raised his blue eyebrows.

CURTIS:

I can hardly deny it.

Don`'t worry, that was just a small controlled explosion to break-up the ore. The Edge asteroid is too brittle for major pyrotechnics. You`re right, obviously. This *is* the secret source of the galaxy`s Acumen. A mine hidden away in a separate dimension among The Edge

laboratories.

But I`m doing nothing wrong. My Acumen treatments have improved the lives of countless people. Repairing damaged synapses. It`s a naturally occurring miracle-cure, which I am merely harvesting.

JAMIE:

Aye. And you use it on your workers too - they`re nearly as blue as you are!

CURTIS: (AMUSED)

Is *that* what you think?

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

He held out his arm, turning his hand as if to judge how blue it had become.

CURTIS:

I do confess to taking a few grains of Acumen myself. But I am almost entirely philanthropic with my treatments.

Of course, while the source remains a secret, I have a monopoly. I sell Acumen to those who need it and I`ve grown phenomenally rich and powerful on the profits.

JAMIE:

What about all these people with blue faces then? You`ve made them

clever so they`ll work for you. That`s what you want to do to the Doctor and Zoe.

CURTIS:

Have you really not realised? We`re *in* the Indigo Nebula. The whole of this region of space is *awash* with Acumen. Simply being within the nebula will eventually pigment the skin and increase the intellect.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

He pointed to the vast segments of The Edge being mined outside the window.

CURTIS:

Acumen *forms* the asteroids: they grow like crystals in a solution. They then break into segments, each of which grows into a new asteroid, and so the cycle continues.

Of course I don`t allow the visiting academics down here. I put up with them as a source of new workers - like your friends. I don`t want too many people around who might realize the nebula`s potential.

JAMIE:

What about that waiter then?

CURTIS:

In any organisation, there will be some 'little man` - trying to take advantage. He won`t be bothering me anymore.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I had backed away from Curtis, as far as I could into the control room and now he stepped towards me. I remembered how easily he had thrown me to the ground earlier.

CURTIS:

I`m *glad* that Sebastian failed to kill you, Jamie. You see, I need some way of persuading the Doctor and Zoe into working here - imagine what minds like theirs could achieve in an environment like this. I can`'t threaten *them*. But I *can* threaten their friend.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I`d come to a row of flickering terminals, my back pressed uncomfortably against a fire extinguisher on the wall. I couldnae back away anymore.

JAMIE:

What do you want with Zoe and the Doctor anyway?

CURTIS:

Isn`t it obvious? It`s been said that I`m the most intelligent man in the galaxy. Such an intellect comes at a price: *When you know all that there is to know, the only thing you crave is something new.*

I mine the Acumen here - but my *real passion* is this research centre: The Edge.

I *need* the Doctor and Zoe. I need their research, I need to be fed new insights. Imagine the innovation they could achieve in a lifetime working here. And if I have to harm *you* to ensure their cooperation – so be it.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I snatched up the fire extinguisher.

“Will you no` let the Doctor and Zoe go?”

Curtis stopped. He stood there watching me again. But he said nothing. The extinguisher was a long metal cylinder. Heavy and solid. I swung it into the nearest terminal.

(FX: SMASHING OF THE TERMINAL GLASS AND MACHINERY)

Curtis just stood there, so I smashed the next one too.

(FX: SMASHING OF ANOTHER TERMINAL)

CURTIS: (CALMLY)

This is *fascinating*, Jamie; I wondered what you would try next.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Curtis didnae seem concerned at all. I guess the terminals were only displays, I needed to smash something more important.



(FX: REPEATED CLANG OF THE EXTINGUISHER HITTING METAL CABINETS)

I hit the metal boxes covered in wee lights. The casing dented, then caved in. I hit it again and again.

(FX: ELECTRIC SIZZLE OF DAMAGED COMPONENTS)

Outside the window a crane lifting huge chunks of crystal stopped moving, its power dying with the lights on the smashed controls.

Curtis wasnae concerned about the crane. He sat down on a desk chair, still watching me.

CURTIS:

This will *not* change my mind, Jamie. Your little rebellion is quite futile - *but absolutely fascinating*. All this emotional brute force - and with not a hope of success. Why do you do this?

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I moved to the next stack of controls.

(FX: MORE SMASHING)

JAMIE:

You`ve got my friends trapped, of course I`m gonae help them.

CURTIS:

Even though it`s impossible?

(FX: THUDS AND SPARKS. THE DESTRUCTION PUNCTUATES JAMIE AND CURTIS`S  
SPEECH)

JAMIE: (EXERTION EVIDENT IN HIS VOICE)

Zoe and the Doctor are my friends. We`ve travelled together for more time than I care to think of. We`ve seen off far worse than you: Ice Warriors, Yeti, Space Pirates.

*And everywhere we go I`ve seen the righting of wrongs.*

That`s what the Doctor *does* - however impossible it might be.

So *that`s* what I`m doing for him - and for Zoe.

I don`t *care* that it`s impossible - because I`m doing what`s right!

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

As I slammed the extinguisher deeper into the equipment, Curtis held his Acumen-blue hands to his head, an expression of surprise dawning on his face.

CURTIS: (AMAZED)

This is incredible - I can feel *new* synapses forming! I`m *learning* - from an imbecile like you Jamie - *I`m learning something new!*

(DELIGHTED) Keep smashing Jamie - don`t stop!

Destroy the whole mine if you think it would help.

(LAUGHING) This facility, The Edge, it`s all an amusement - the innovation and advancement I need to sustain my intellect. *Smash it*

*for me Jamie!*

I`ll just have it all re-built, and to an upgraded design. A new start would be a refreshing change!

(VOICE HARDENS) And at the heart of my new Edge will be your friends. I`ll *never* let them go Jamie. You`ve failed.

JAMIE: (NARRATING) (WEARILY)

With a final swing of the extinguisher, I tore the front panel from another machine.

(FX: SMASHING SOUNDS STOP)

My arms ached, my hands hurt, but I felt better for trying - even if it was all for nothing. I've seen the Doctor struggle like this a dozen times, but somehow he always found a way.

(BEAT)

(WITH MOUNTING EXCITEMENT) Then I saw it. Nestling there inside the machinery. It looked like an egg-timer, but with coils of wire around it and a red light pulsing inside.

(WITH EMPHASIS) *Curtis had gone suddenly quiet.*

I reached into the exposed circuits, curling my fingers around this wee gismo, pulling it taught against the wires which held it in place. Curtis stood. His blue face had turned pale.

CURTIS: (WORRIED)

Don`t be stupid, Jamie. You can`t possibly know what that is.

JAMIE: (PROUDLY AND DEFIANT)

It looks to me like a dimensional stabiliser. It`s this wee gismo that allows this impossibly huge space to be inside your wee laboratory buildings. *Now* will you release my friends?

CURTIS: (HARSH AND SLOW)

Never!

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Then he rushed at me.

Looking back it was probably not the wisest thing I`ve done. But I didnae have time to think. I ripped the stabiliser free!

(BEAT)

(FX: EXPLOSIVE RIPPING APART OF BUILDINGS AS THE MINING CHAMBER  
'DIMENSION` EXPANDS)

It was like an earthquake! The mining chamber *erupted* to full size.

What had I done?! I imagined the rooms around it being pushed away.

(FX: RUSH OF AIR ESCAPING INTO SPACE. MANY OF THE AUTOMATED MINING SOUNDS STOP)

The roof of the mining chamber had been torn apart. The blue clouds of the glowing nebula blazed above the mine workings - *and I found myself struggling for breath!*

Then the control room windows shattered and the doors burst outwards as the air inside escaped into open space. I ran for the door and out onto the raised walkway. Miraculously I could see that the open doors to the corridor were still intact - I *had* to reach them. I grabbed Curtis by the arm as I passed, dragging him with me.

(FX: WIND RUSHING IN FROM OPEN CORRIDOR DOORWAY. THIS WIND AND REMAINING MINING SOUNDS LESSEN UNTIL THERE IS TOTAL SILENCE)

(BEAT)

Zoe had laughed at me once because I didn't know that sound needs air to travel through. Well I knew it now. Despite all the chaos around us, there was silence. And that meant the air was gone! I was holding my breath, but I could feel the pressure inside me building as if I might explode. I ran along the walkway, my stockinged feet feeling lighter all the time. Bits of the shattered roof fell all around, but it fell slowly like snow. We were outside now - very little gravity

and nae air! And *amazingly* the two great segments of The Edge began to rise from the floor.

Curtis`s mouth was flapping like a fish. I dragged him along the walkway. He could hardly walk and *I* was becoming weaker too. I couldnae hold my breath anymore, I tried to breathe in, but there was nothing there, as if my throat was blocked!

(FX: FAINT SOUND OF WIND AS AIR STREAMS THROUGH FROM THE OPEN CORRIDOR DOOR. THIS SOUND GROWS LOUDER TO A ROAR AS JAMIE APPROCHES)

(WITH GREAT EFFORT AND URGENCY) I struggled nearer to the corridor. And I could feel the air rushing out of it, pushing us back. Aye, and I could *hear* it too - faintly, I risked another breath.

Just enough air to keep me going. Curtis was limp now, but easy to drag without gravity. We reached the door. The air was rushing out that fast that I had to *fight* against it.

And finally I was through! And I pulled Curtis after me. I pushed at the doors; the wind caught them and slammed them shut.

(FX: SLAM OF DOORS. ROAR OF ESCAPING AIR SUBSIDES)

**SCENE 18 - CORRIDOR**

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Curtis`s blue eyes flickered back to life as he began to breathe again. He held a hand to his head and stared at me.

CURTIS: (WEAKLY)

I can feel synapses *breaking*. How can that be? There`s no logic to you Jamie. I don`t understand why you would save me.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The corridor was bent wildly out of shape, but miraculously it seemed intact. Curtis managed to stand.

We clambered along to the room next door. And, as we reached it, two figures staggered out.

DOCTOR: (DELIGHTED)

Jamie!

JAMIE:

Doctor! Zoe! We were just...

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Zoe gave me the biggest hug ever. And I`d already had the wind knocked out o` me! "Oh Jamie," she cried, "I was so worried about you! What`s going on?" Then she noticed Curtis and scowled at him.



"And what`s *he* doing here?"

JAMIE:

I - er - may have damaged the secret Acumen mining chamber.

DOCTOR:

Oh, so that`s what it was - goodness me, it felt like an earthquake.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The Doctor waved his baggy overall sleeve back into the room.

DOCTOR:

That electrical barrier failed. Though the blue man in there seems intent on repairing it.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

He too scowled at Curtis.

DOCTOR:

Time to leave, I think.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

That`s when things got worse!

(FX: EARTHQUAKE-LIKE SOUNDS OF THE GROUND MOVING, AND THE BUILDINGS SHAKING)

It was like another earthquake. The twisted corridor was shaking. I didn't think the buildings would stand much more.

CURTIS: (FRIGHTENED)

It's The Edge! The asteroid is too brittle to stand this treatment. I think a third segment has been shaken loose - it's detaching!

DOCTOR: (HORRIFIED)

Oh no! You mean *this* segment - the one these laboratories are built on?!

(FX: LOUDER RUMBLINGS AND SHAKING. SOUNDS OF FALLING DEBRIS)

JAMIE:

We have to get out of here! Quick, airlock 8 is this way.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I saw the man with the pale-blue face trying to stand upright as the ground shook; he was still fixing his electrical barrier thing.

JAMIE: (SHOUTING)

Leave that! We've got to get out of here.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The man looked up. He'd heard me right enough, but he still tried to save his work.

CURTIS:

Leave him; leave *all* of them. They are too dedicated to their research - you`ll never persuade them.

DOCTOR:

I - I think he`s right Jamie. If we can get away, then we can raise the alarm to help anyone left behind. Now, where`s this exit?

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I led them at a run towards the airlock door. We all grabbed breathing domes, and Zoe reached for the gravity boots.

JAMIE:

Nae boots, Zoe! We`ll be faster without them.

(FX: AIRLOCK INNER DOOR OPENS)

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

We all entered the airlock, fitting the domes over our heads, and Curtis slammed his blue fist on the close button.

(FX: AIRLOCK INNER DOOR CLOSES. MORE SOUNDS OF VIOLENT QUAKING)

CURTIS: (FRIGHTENED, VOICE DISTORTED DUE TO BREATHING DOME AND COMMUNICATION DEVICE)

Quickly! The segment is practically free. We`ll end up floating through the nebula.

(FX: AIRLOCK OUTER DOOR BEGINS TO OPEN, WITH A HISS OF EXCAPING AIR INTO SPACE, THEN ABRUPTLY GRATES AND STOPS)

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The door had stuck, partly open. There was just room for us to squeeze out one at a time.

CURTIS: (DISTORTED)

The wall is cracked, look! The door could fall at any moment.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Curtis hung back as, carefully, we squeezed through the gap. Zoe went first, then the Doctor, then me.

**SCENE 19 - EXTERIOR OF THE EDGE**

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The blue of the nebula was blinding for a moment, then I pointed towards the lift shaft that rose up the vast glassy cliff face.

Curtis was the last to squeeze past the damaged door as the Doctor helped Zoe, half running - half floating towards the shaft.

(FX: ANOTHER QUAKE)

I could see the ground shifting against the wall of the cliff. Curtis was right, this whole segment was moving!

(FX: QUAKE BRIEFLY INTENSIFIES, CLANG OF HEAVY AIRLOCK DOOR FALLING, CURTIS CRIES OUT IN PAIN)

I turned back. The airlock door had been shaken from the wall and fallen. There was nae sign of Curtis!

I leapt back to the fallen door. It lay at an angle.

CURTIS: (MUFFLED AND DISTORTED)

Help me!

JAMIE: (DISTORTED)

Curtis!

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The Doctor had heard us and was hurrying back to help. I tried to lift the fallen door; it was about two feet thick and solid metal.

JAMIE: (DISTORTED. VOICE STRAINED WITH EFFORT)

Help me, Doctor - the gravity`s weak.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

But the door was just too heavy; even with the Doctor`s help, we couldnae budge it an inch.

I crawled to the widest gap and could just see Curtis`s face behind a wide crack in his breathing dome.

His face twisted awkwardly till his eyes met mine.

CURTIS: (FRIGHTENED BUT RESIGNED. HIS BREATHING IS FAST AND AUDIBLE.

THERE IS A HISS OF AIR ESCAPING THROUGH HIS CRACKED DOME. VOICE DISTORTED)

I - I know there`s no hope, Jamie. I`m far from stupid. It`s impossible.

JAMIE: (DISTORTED. TRYING TO SOOTH CURTIS, BUT KNOWING THAT HE`S RIGHT)

Hey - nothing`s impossible, remember?

CURTIS: (DISTORTED. WEAKLY)

*Why* would you help me Jamie - after all that I've done?

JAMIE: (DISTORTED. SIMPLY)

Because - it would be *wrong* not to. Is that no right Doctor?

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I felt the Doctor's hand on my shoulder.

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

Yes Jamie, you're right.

(FX: ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE-LIKE MOVEMENT OF THE SEGMENT)

But I fear there is nothing we can do in time.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Curtis had closed his eyes.

CURTIS: (DISTORTED. HIS BREATHING SLOWING)

I can feel *more* synapses breaking in my mind, Jamie. What does this mean?

JAMIE: (DISTORTED. SYMPATHETICALLY)

Perhaps you're no as clever as you thought.

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

I - I think your brain is rejecting things you had *thought* were true or important.

JAMIE: (DISTORTED)

You mean he`s *un-learning*?!

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

Re-evaluating, Jamie. He hasn`t met anyone like *you* before.

(FX: ANOTHER JUDDERING QUAKE. THE AIRLOCK DOOR SETTLES FURTHER. SOUND OF CURTIS`S BREATHING DOME BREAKING)

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The airlock door shifted, even lower!

JAMIE: (DISTORTED)

Curtis! Provost Curtis!

(BEAT)

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

There was nae reply. The Doctor`s hand now gripped my shoulder and he pulled me up - easy in the reduced gravity.

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

Jamie, we *must* hurry.



(BEAT)

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Zoe was waiting at the lift shaft, which towered above us, hugging the cliff face. She was already a few rungs up a service ladder which was bolted to the outside. The Doctor and me were running and floating as the segment shifted again.

(FX: TREMENDOUS CRACKING!)

With a tremendous cracking the ground was detaching from the main asteroid and lifting away! Zoe`s expression was horrified as we rose above her for a moment, then the segment tipped, taking us *nearer* to the shaft.

We both *jumped* for the ladder - just as the segment twisted again floating freely away into space!

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

Oh my word! Just in time!

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

We`d caught the ladder a few rungs higher than Zoe. She soon caught up with us: half floating she pulled herself up hand over hand.

(EXERTION OF CLIMBING) As we climbed, I could hear the Doctor and Zoe breathing, but nothing now from Curtis, and nothing from the

laboratory base. All was silent as the gigantic segment floated gracefully from The Edge.

(FADE)

SCENE 20 - THE EDGE VIEWING PLATFORM

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

Finally, we stood on the viewing platform at the top o` the cliff looking out at the shining nebula.

Zoe waved a small hand at the vastness. "It`s still beautiful," she said.

Floating close by were the three segments of The Edge asteroid. Two were pitted and broken where they had been mined. The third was a wee bit splintered at the edges but whole. And the laboratory buildings still clung to one surface as it floated around its two battered fellows.

JAMIE: (DISTORTED)

Doctor, yon pale-blue people - will they be alright?

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

Most of the base seemed to be air-tight, Jamie. Let`s hope they had the sense to stay in those areas.

As soon as we`re back we`ll get the authorities to send out their shuttles as rescue ships.

JAMIE: (DISTORTED)

Aye, and while we`re at it, we`ll tell them about that guide Sebastian and his involvement with Acumen production.

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

Ah, yes, Acumen. I think Curtis`s little empire will collapse completely now that his secret source has been discovered. And with a whole nebula alive with the stuff the ridiculous cost of treatments should plummet.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I looked down at the great drop of the edge. It was here that I`d felt that sense of being trapped - and I realised now that the feeling had *gone*. My eyes were drawn up into the blazing blue sky where the three segments of The Edge floated - like ducklings around their mother.

I couldnae help thinking of how the quake had trapped Curtis, but *not* us. And how the segment had lifted the Doctor and me *towards* the ladder.

JAMIE: (DISTORTED. THOUGHTFULLY)

Yon asteroids are made of Acumen, right?

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

Yes Jamie.

JAMIE: (DISTORTED)

And Acumen is a form of intelligence...

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I explained about the *trapped* feeling and how strong it had been in the mining chamber.

I looked up again at the pitted segments.

JAMIE: (DISTORTED)

Could they have been 'talking` to me, Doctor? Are they alive?

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

A lattice of crystalline synapses! That`s *fascinating!*

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

The Doctor practically danced a jig in his excitement.

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED. EXCITED)

Oh Jamie, You know, I think you could be right. That these asteroids are on the edge of sentience. That`s incredible! They were trapped and *you* were able to sense their feelings, whereas everyone else here... Well their minds were too full to hear their cries.

JAMIE: (DISTORTED)

What you mean is: my mind`s empty compared with yours, and Zoe`s.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I managed a small smile. I was used to being treated as the least intelligent of the TARDIS crew.

Zoe however half-floated over to nestle against me. "That`s absolutely *not* true Jamie!" she said. "Your mind`s not empty. That`s the mistake Provost Curtis made. He thought that intelligence was purely academic. And, I admit, I sometimes act that way too." I thought she was going to hug me again, but she just looked at me apologetically. "I`m sorry."

The Doctor clasped his hands together and gave me *that look*, as if he were peering over a pair of spectacles he`d forgotten to put on.

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

I think it was only at the end that Curtis realised there`s value in loyalty and friendship, in bravery and a strong arm. For all his intelligence - he still had a lot to learn.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

He sighed, staring out at the vast nebula, its bright clouds and asteroids.

DOCTOR: (DISTORTED)

You *said* there was something wrong here, Jamie, when we first landed. I should have trusted your instinct right at the beginning. Well done Jamie. You rescued *us*, you rescued the trapped segments -

you even tried to rescue Curtis.

Oh, we've been through some adventures you and I, haven't we? And I may not have said it before, but I`m very proud of you, Jamie. Proud of how much you`ve learnt, and how much you`ve taught us in return.

JAMIE: (NARRATING)

I couldnae help grinning back at him. Aye, we made quite a team: the Doctor and Jamie - and Zoe too. We linked arms and half-floated back towards the main Edge buildings.

And in the sky, the curve of the asteroid segments caught the light, smiling down at the three of us.

(FADE)

MUSIC: (DOCTOR WHO CLOSING TITLES)

(End of text)